



Fair Political Practices Commission

428 J Street, Suite 620, Sacramento, CA 95814

www.fppc.ca.gov

NEWS ADVISORY

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Contact: Sigrid Bathen
(916) 322-7761

FPPC to approve 2004 regulatory priorities at Dec. 11 meeting *Review of conflict-of-interest codes for public agencies also on Thursday agenda*

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The Fair Political Practices Commission meets this **Thursday (Dec. 11)** to consider a lengthy agenda of enforcement actions and several legal and regulatory issues -- including expected approval of the agency’s regulatory priorities for 2004. The commission will also discuss scheduling and prioritizing regulatory changes resulting from Proposition 34, the complex campaign finance measure approved by voters in November 2000.

The commission was responsible for approving regulations implementing Prop. 34 – a task which required considerable staff time over the last two years. Thursday’s discussion includes setting a date for future consideration of “specific refinements” to Prop. 34 regulations. **(Agenda Item #23)**

Also on Thursday’s agenda is a discussion of the conflict-of-interest codes governing public agencies. The discussion is part of an ongoing review of the duties of “filing officers” in identifying “designated employees” and notifying those employees of their filing obligations under the Political Reform Act. (Filing officers are individuals in state and local agencies who receive the Statements of Economic Interest required of public officials who must detail their personal financial interests on SEI’s or Form 700. Designated employees are those individuals designated in agency conflict-of-interest codes to file SEI’s.)

More than 100,000 SEIs, which are public documents, are filed with local and state agencies, including more than 20,000 which are required to be filed with the FPPC.

According to a memorandum on the project, which began in 2002, staff attorneys and technical experts have examined “effective procedures or guidelines” for agencies to follow “on how to identify designated employees, notify them of their filing requirements and set forth a timeline for accomplishing both of these tasks.” (#22)

In addition, the commission will consider an amendment to a regulation requiring notification by campaign committees of disclosure requirements for campaign contributors of \$5,000 or more – so-called “major donors” who may not be aware of their filing obligations

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under the Political Reform Act. The proposed amendment would require committees to notify those contributors that they may have campaign disclosure obligations. (#20)

Thursday's meeting will begin at 9:45 a.m. in the commission's eighth-floor hearing room at 428 J Street (corner of fifth and J) in downtown Sacramento. The agenda is attached, and available on the Agency website at www.fppc.ca.gov. Click on "agendas" on the left side of the home page, and go to "current agenda."

Proposed enforcement stipulations, orders and exhibits can be obtained from the website by clicking on the link in that agenda item. Memoranda regarding other items on the agenda are also accessible by clicking on the links in those agenda items on the website.

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